

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

DECLARATION

As below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship is as stated below next to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first, and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **RETRIEVAL AND CONNECTION SYSTEM FOR A DISCONNECTABLE MOORING YOKE** of the Application filed herewith.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

§1.56 DUTY OF DISCLOSURE-INFORMATION MATERIAL TO PATENTABILITY

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and

- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of the United States provisional application listed below and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States provisional application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior provisional application and the filing of this application:

<u>Provisional Application Ser. No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status</u>
60/425,804	11/12/2002	Pending

I hereby declare that all statements made hereby of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Gary L. Bush, Registration No. 27,423
James L. Jackson, Registration No. 20,791

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Full name of first inventor:

L. TERRY BOATMAN

Inventor's Signature:

Date: Nov. 12, 2003

Residence:

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Citizenship:

U.S.A.

Post Office Address:

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Full name of second inventor: **STEPHEN P. LINDBLADE**

Inventor's Signature:



Date: Nov. 12, 2003

Residence: **14936 Blinka Rd.**
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Full name of third inventor: **JERRY L. MCCOLLUM**

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Residence: **1445 Allen St.**
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**ADDED PAGE TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR SIGNING BY ADMINISTRATOR(TRIX) EXECUTOR(TRIX)
OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE ON BEHALF OF DECEASED OR
INCAPACITATED INVENTOR**

I, Jane C. McCollum, hereby declare
that I am a citizen of the United States of America, residing at _____
1445 Allen Hempstead, Tx. 77445 and that I am
executing and signing the declaration to which this is attached as the

(check one)

- executrix of the last will and testament of
- the administrator(trix) of
- legal representative (or heirs) of

Jane C. McCollum, Executrix of the Estate of **Jerry L. McCollum**, Deceased, a
United States citizen previously residing at 1445 Allen St., Hempstead, Texas 77445.

NOTE: The name of the first, second, etc. deceased or incapacitated inventor should preferably also be filled in at the appropriate prior space of the declaration adding the words "deceased-completed on added page" or "incapacitated-completed on added page."

That, upon information and belief, I aver those facts that the inventor is required to state.

Date: Nov. 12, 2003

Jane C. McCollum
Jane C. McCollum, Executrix of the
Jerry L. McCollum, Deceased

NOTE: Proof of authority of the administrator(trix), executor(trix) or legal representative must be recorded in the PTO or filed in the application before the grant of the patent. 37 CFR 1.44

NOTE: Application may be made by the heirs of the invention if a certificate of the court will establish that they are all the heirs and the estate was not required to appoint an administrator. If the heirs are signing add lines for all the heirs to sign. MPEP § 409.01(a), 6th ed., rev. 3.